The Red River Floodway Expansion Project

Recreation and Economic Development

Opportunities Report

Prepared by:
Manitoba Floodway Authority
December 2004

Canada

Manitoba

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Introduction

Over the years, Manitobans, especially residents of the Red River Valley and the City of Winnipeg have experienced the devastation of spring floods first hand. Significant Red River flooding in 1950, 1966, 1979, 1996 and, in particular, 1997 - when the Floodway came within inches of its limit - reinforced this reality and the need to prepare for larger floods in the future.

After the 1997 "Flood of the Century", Canada and Manitoba invested $110 million in flood protection initiatives in rural Manitoba. At the same time, the International Joint Commission (IJC) studied a number of different flood protection options to improve flood protection for the City of Winnipeg.

After reviewing all the facts and options, the federal and provincial governments chose the expansion of the current floodway as the most cost-effective and viable solution. As a result, the Government of Canada has recognized the project as a national priority and has partnered with the Province of Manitoba to expand the floodway to combat a 1 in 700 year flood (approximately twice the size of the 1997 flood).

The Red River Floodway expansion project will increase flood security and improve the quality of life for many Manitobans. It will also create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, protect the environment and give residents an opportunity to help shape the future of their communities.

By providing flood protection to a 1 in 700 year level of protection, the expanded floodway will:

- Protect an additional 450,000 Manitobans from flooding.
- Avoid the social, economic and environmental impact that would accompany a major flood.
- Prevent more than $12 billion in damages to the provincial economy.
- Protect the Red River and Lake Winnipeg during a 1 in 700 year flood.

At the same time as improving flood protection for hundreds of thousands of Manitobans, floodway expansion will also result in other long-lasting benefits for all Manitobans and future generations. Some of these benefits include:

- Recreation and economic development opportunities for local communities.
- Training opportunities that will help to meet the need for future construction projects.
- Employment opportunities during construction.

This report outlines ideas submitted to the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) by the public and options for consideration as the floodway expansion project moves ahead. These are only ideas at this point and final decisions will require ongoing public consultation.

The implementation of any recreation or economic proposal is expected to be the responsibility of the proponent. No recreation or economic proposal will be authorized that has a potential to have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Project proponents will be required to comply with relevant environmental regulatory standards and any other applicable legislation.

The Floodway Expansion Project

The Red River Floodway is an important part of Manitoba's economic infrastructure. It was built between 1962 and 1968 at a cost of $63 million. Since its completion the floodway has saved Manitobans more than $8 billion in flood losses, not to mention the social, emotional, and environmental devastation that would have impacted Manitobans.

The floodway expansion project is an enormously complex project that will more than double the capacity of the existing floodway. It will include a number of components including earth moving, the construction and redesign of highway and railway bridges, modifications to hydro and water lines, and the protection of water quality. The major components of the project relate to improvements to the existing floodway protection system including the Floodway Channel, bridges, the Inlet and Outlet control works, utilities and services and the West Dike.

This expansion project will greatly improve flood protection for local residents from floods larger that the 1997 "Flood of the Century", including a repeat of the 1826 flood –which was the largest flood on record and 40 per cent larger than 1997 – and as great as a 1 in 700 year flood.

The Mandate of the Manitoba Floodway Authority

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has been established by the Government of Manitoba, under *The Floodway Authority Act*, as an independent crown agency whose mandate is to manage the construction of the floodway project. As part of its mandate, it is also responsible for enhancing the benefits the floodway will provide to the community.

The floodway extends approximately 48 km from just south of Winnipeg, through the Rural Municipality of Springfield (east of Winnipeg) and north to Lockport with approximately 10,400 acres as part of the floodway right-of-way. The floodway is a provincial waterway operated by the Department of Water Stewardship. The majority of the land included in the floodway right-of-way is occupied by the floodway embankments (i.e. dikes). For the most part, this property is maintained through leasing for the production of forage crops, which is administered by Manitoba's Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives. The Springhill Winter Ski Facility, located northeast of Winnipeg, is the only other leaseholder.

The Call for Expression of Interest

Over the years there have been general suggestions made about secondary use of the floodway for recreation and economic development opportunities. A review of these suggestions as part of the floodway expansion project has been included in the mandate for MFA as it proceeds with the project.

To facilitate in the identification of possible options, MFA issued a Call for Expression of Interest on March 18, 2004, encouraging the public, local municipalities, and local organizations and others to provide their ideas to the subject.

At the time, MFA CEO Ernie Gilroy stated:

> *"We want Manitobans to have their say and help shape the future of their communities. This process will compliment and assist the current independent environmental assessment and allow us to prepare a more concise blueprint for specific recreation and economic development activities associated with the new floodway."*

The Call for Expression of Interest clearly identified all of the objectives and guidelines for the submissions:

- Compatibility with the primary purpose of floodway expansion.
- Minimal ongoing maintenance costs to taxpayers.
- Stakeholder participation and community support.
- Maximize benefits to rural and Aboriginal communities.
- Compliment existing Red River facilities and initiatives.
- Environmental stewardship.

Manitobans were given until April 20, 2004 to submit their ideas in writing to MFA.

MFA undertook a number of strategies to communicate this initiative to residents of the region, including:

- March 18 press release issued to local radio, television and newspaper outlets.
- Follow up interviews by MFA staff with local reporters.
- Series of advertisements in more than a dozen local newspaper outlets.
- Direct mail information package to key stakeholders and callers to MFA's toll-free access line.
- MFA's ongoing public consultation process.

Since the conclusion of the period allocated for responding to the Call for Expression of Interest, other submissions have also been received by MFA through the ongoing public consultation on the floodway project. To date, all written submissions have been acknowledged and reviewed by MFA officials.

When the Call for Expressions of Interest was issued, MFA announced its intention to compile an "Opportunity Report" that would be presented to the public, local municipalities, recreational organizations, project partners and the independent environmental review process.

This "Opportunity Report" summarizes the submissions received, recommends next steps, and serves as a general framework for pursuing future opportunities and partnerships.

Communication and Outreach

In association with the formal Call for Expression of Interest, MFA developed a comprehensive communication plan to ensure interested Manitobans were given the opportunity to submit their ideas. As noted, the strategy contained a number of elements: media outreach, advertising, direct mail and the project's ongoing public involvement process.

Media Outreach

On March 18, 2004, a press release was issued by MFA to radio, television and newspaper outlets across the region. A backgrounder entitled: Call for Expression of Interest – Information Package was also included.

Interviews were arranged between MFA staff and local reporters to follow-up the press release. A copy of the news release and backgrounder are included in Appendix.

Advertising

MFA purchased a series of advertisements in local newspapers inviting Manitobans to submit their ideas. The ads asked residents to contact a toll free telephone line to get more information about the call for expressions of interest.

Specifically, ads were placed in the Winnipeg Free Press (3x), Selkirk Journal (2x), Scratching River Post, Carillon, Crow Wing Warrior, La Liberté, Interlake Spectator and Valley Leader.

Copies of ads are included in the Appendix.

Direct Mail

More than 500 information packages were mailed directly to various associations and grassroots organizations, including:

- Manitoba Chamber of Commerce
- Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
- Rivers West
- Destination Winnipeg
- Manitoba Business Council
- Manitoba Historical Society
- Manitoba Cycling Association
- Manitoba Freestyle Ski Association
- Snowmobilers of Manitoba
- Manitoba Horse Council
- Cooks Creek Conservation District
- Manitoba Métis Federation
- Southern Manitoba Chiefs
- Peguis, Brokenhead and Roseau River First Nations
- Manitoba Eco-Network
- Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba
- Red River Basin Commission
- Tribal Council Investment Group
- Manitoba Recreational Trails Association
- Group'Action Saint-Norbert
- North Ritchot Action Committee

- Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation
- Red River Valley Group
- City of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Hydro
- Forks North Portage Partnership
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Floodway East Drainage Association
- 768 Association
- Coalition for Flood Protection North of the Floodway
- Bird's Hill Park
- Canadian Nature Federation
- Pembina Valley Conservation District
- Save Our Seine Environment Inc.
- Springhill Winter Park
- Local Municipalities

Information packages were also mailed to local residents and organizations that contacted the toll-free telephone line based on the advertising campaign.

Public Consultation Process

As part of our ongoing public consultation process, details of MFA's Call for Expression of Interest were communicated to local municipal governments and stakeholders on the following occasions:

- Winnipeg and Manitoba Chamber of Commerce – March 25
- Manitoba Business Council - March 26
- Red River Valley Group - March 30
- RM of Ritchot - April 6
- RM of West St. Paul - April 8
- RM of Springfield - April 13
- City of Selkirk - April 13
- RM of Taché - April 13
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities - April 14
- RM of Morris - April 14
- Keystone Agriculture Producers - April 16
- Floodway East Drainage Association - April 19
- RM of St. Clements - April 20
- 768 Association - April 20
- RM of St. Andrews - April 27
- RM of MacDonald - April 27
- RM of East St. Paul - April 28
- Town of Niverville - May 4

Questionnaires were distributed at MFA's various town hall meetings. Participants were invited to answer questions about recreation and economic opportunities associated with the project on six occasions:

- April 19 – Oakbank Baptist Church
- April 20 – East Selkirk Recreation Centre
- April 21 – St. Norbert, Howden Community Centre
- April 26 – Morris, Southern Manitoba Convention Centre
- April 29 – Winnipeg, St. Norbert Community Centre
- May 3 – Winnipeg, Vince Leah Recreation Centre

MFA was also assisted in its public consultation by Group'Action Saint-Norbert (GAS). In February 2004, GAS conducted a mail survey of the residents on both sides of the Red River between the Perimeter Highway in the north and St. Adolphe in the south. Close to 700 people responded.

Residents identified walking trails, toboggan hill and cycling paths as their top priorities and showed a preference for certain recreational opportunities over loud, environmentally intrusive uses.

GAS also identified a strong interest in establishing a floodway interpretive centre which would include historic perspectives, flood history, multi-media displays and public facilities such as a parking lot, washrooms and warming hut.

Public Response to the Expressions of Interest

More than fifty formal expressions of interests were received by MFA. In addition to the written expressions of interest, MFA has received input regarding recreation and economic opportunities from municipal governments, provincial officials and local residents via MFA's toll-free access line and through the ongoing public consultation process.

Expressions of interest focused on the re-use of the excavated earth, summer and winter recreation, employment training, business development and other opportunities. A list of the organizations that submitted expressions of interest is located in the acknowledgement section.

Re-Use of Excavated Earth

A specific area of interest that received significant public attention was a suggestion to maximize the opportunity for re-use of the millions of cubic metres of earth that will be excavated from the floodway channel. Among other things, residents suggested that the earth be used to:

- Support local highway construction projects
- Rural flood protection
- Expand Springhill Winter Park
- Make a new ski hill
- Stabilize and flood-proof private property

- Improve existing river banks
- Collect deposits of selenite crystals
- Help farmers who might need it
- Construct a graveyard

Summer and Winter Recreation

MFA received numerous proposals regarding various summer and winter recreation activities that could be associated with floodway expansion. They include:

- Development of a multi-use, four season, greenway/trail along the floodway
- Cross-country ski trail
- Snowmobile trails
- Toboggan hill
- Sled dog racing and training trails
- Outdoor ice rink
- Horseback riding trails
- Hang-gliding facility
- Snowboarding
- Orienteering
- Wildlife management area
- Festival site
- Rowing facility
- Gun and target range

Employment Training and Business Development

MFA received a small number of training and business development expressions of interests. These ideas were related to private investment and general economic development opportunities for First Nation and Métis residents.

MFA has initiated consultations with southern Manitoba First Nation and Métis communities regarding employment and business development opportunities. In addition, various industry, labour, Aboriginal and training organizations have been engaged in a stakeholder process to develop the training components of the project.

In light of the fact most of the current floodway is used for agricultural purposes, MFA has initiated a series of consultations with local Manitoba agricultural producers regarding any disruption caused by the construction of the floodway and any associated recreational developments. In addition, MFA has been working with local producers to explore ways that the project will benefit them in areas such as drainage, access to earth and land stewardship.

Other Opportunities

In addition to summer and winter recreation, training and business development and suggestions regarding the disposal of earth, MFA received approximately ten other ideas through the Call for Expressions of Interest, including:

- Twinning of Highway 15 floodway crossing east of Winnipeg to accommodate increased future traffic flows
- Development of a 3-D virtual reality floodway to demonstrate the project's benefits, assist the engineering design and help prepare for flood emergencies
- Re-vegetation of native grassland species in the floodway
- Develop an interpretive centre for the floodway that features flood history, educational and historic material and multi-media presentations
- Formally document and archive the project's development, public consultation and construction phases for historic and educational purposes
- Beautification of the floodway's inlet and outlet control structures

Observations and Conclusions

Since the conclusion of the Call for Expressions of Interest, MFA has reviewed the submissions in the context of the project's environmental licensing process and the guidelines described in the original "Information Package". In many case, organizations were contacted and interviewed directly by MFA staff.

Through this process and the ongoing public consultation process, MFA has identified a number of conclusions and observations that can be drawn from the initiative:

- Increased flood security for Winnipeg and southern Manitoba will benefit all Manitobans and is in the interest of both the provincial and national economy.
- The expansion of the Red River Floodway provides an important opportunity for recreation and economic development for organizations, local communities and the public.
- Since expanding the floodway in anticipation of future floods is the primary purpose of floodway expansion, actual construction on any recreational component will be incorporated into the latter stages of project construction.
- Proposals that require summer water use of the floodway are not compatible with the primary purpose of flood protection, as identified in the Call for Expressions of Interest on March 18, 2004.
- Broad public support has been demonstrated for the development of a four season multi-use, greenway trail system along the floodway.
- There were other proposals and ideas submitted that were complimentary to the greenway trail, including the establishment of snowmobile trails, a multi-media interpretive centre and horseback riding trails.
- Opportunities exist with the millions of cubic yards of excavated earth that will result from the project – in particular as it relates to local highway construction.

- The project's design will allow Springhill Ski Facility to remain at its current location – without disruption.
- Establishment of a new ski hill, compatible with Fédération International de Ski (FIS) requirements, would require earth in excess of the amount that will be made available through excavation of the project, additional property acquisition and the application of an additional environmental license.
- There will be a need to define the engineering parameters for recreation development on the floodway – particularly regarding access to the floodway channel and environmental protection.
- No recreation or economic proposal will be authorized that has a potential negative effect on the environment. Project proponents will be required to comply with relevant environmental regulatory standards and any other applicable legislation.
- Residents and municipalities have legitimate concerns regarding uncontrolled use of the floodway for recreational purposes.
- The project's planned improvements to highway bridges crossing the floodway will have a positive impact on the economy of rural communities surrounding Winnipeg.
- There is a strong connection between success in the agriculture sector and access to quality groundwater, drainage systems and haying opportunities. MFA needs to be sensitive to these realities when considering the project's design and current lease framework.
- There is strong public support for ensuring that – to the extent possible – Manitobans are employed to construct the expanded floodway.
- There is strong public support for developing training opportunities for Manitobans through the construction of the project.
- By providing training opportunities for workers, the floodway project will have the potential to address labour shortages in the construction industry and benefit future economic development projects in the Manitoba.
- Training partnerships need to be efficient, job-oriented and accessible to Aboriginal, Métis, rural, and employment equity groups.
- Opportunities may exist to partner with the governments of Canada and Manitoba to promote skills training.
- There is a high level of appreciation that the expansion of the floodway is an historic initiative and should be documented, archived and promoted to increase public awareness of the project and its benefits. This includes Red River flood history and the construction of the original floodway.
- There are varying degrees of unregulated activity in and around the floodway – in particular enjoyment of motorized vehicles. There may be outstanding questions about legal and liability issues associated with this current "use" of the floodway.
- There is an opportunity to use leading-edge, made in Manitoba technology to demonstrate the effects of the floodway expansion and simulate various flood events, assist engineers in the project design, improve emergency response efforts and provide opportunities for young Manitobans in the new media and technology sectors.

Next Steps and Recommendations

Based on the submissions received through the Expression of Interest process and the ongoing public consultation process, MFA will consider a number of next steps as the project moves forward:

1) Establishment of a Floodway Recreation Working Group to:
    - Examine issues of recreational use along the floodway.
    - Examine the overall planning and design work process of the recreational component.
    - Work in collaboration with MFA staff on this component as planning and design work on the floodway project is undertaken.
    - Consider legal and liability issues associated with current unregulated "use" of the floodway site.
    - Consider ongoing maintenance issues related to potential developments.
    - Identify opportunities for financial support.
2) Establishment of a multi-use, four season greenway trail along the floodway within the project's pre-design.
3) Incorporate a four lane crossing in the planning for the PTH 15 Bridge to meet projected traffic flows.
4) Initiate a formal process that will allow Manitobans to access the excavated earth from the floodway channel. This process will be initiated and advertised closer to the start of construction in 2005. The following principles will guide this process:
    - No increase in project costs.
    - No delay of floodway construction.
    - Priority for local highway construction and rural flood protection.
5) Examine the possibility to create a virtual reality 3D floodway model that will recreate much of Manitoba's Red River Basin, simulate flood scenarios, illustrate the floodway's effects and help to increase public awareness of the project.
6) Examine options to help capture, document and archive the project's development and construction.
7) Ensure that the project does not disrupt the operation of the Lockport Children's Festival site.
8) Distribute the "Opportunity Report" to the members of the public, key stakeholders, local municipalities, the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada and the independent environmental review team.

Three activities that MFA will **not** consider as part of the expansion project are:

1) Any proposals that require water in the floodway (as identified in the Expression of Interest).
2) Acquisition of additional lands for the sole purposes of recreational development.
3) Development of a new ski-hill.

In addition, MFA will **not** consider the following activities ***within (in and around the wetted area) the floodway channel:***

- No permanent or temporary structures.
- No earth trails.
- No earth trails in areas subject to sediment transport into the floodway channel.
- No hazardous material storage.
- No sewage or solid waste.

As the project proceeds, MFA will continue to consider the following priority areas:

- Ensure rural Manitoba communities realize economic benefits from the floodway expansion project;
- Examining opportunities to maximize employment opportunities for Manitoba workers and contractors;
- Maximize training opportunities associated with the floodway expansion;
- Identify opportunities for the governments of Manitoba and Canada to support skills partnerships and other opportunities identified in the report;
- Work with local municipalities to help facilitate improved local drainage systems and mitigate any potential impacts to groundwater supplies.

Acknowledgements

MFA would like to thank the following organizations that either submitted an expression of interest or provided input through our consultation sessions:

- Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba
- Parkland Mews, Falconry & Bird of Prey Education Centre
- Lockport Children's Festival
- Winnipeg Rock & Mineral Club
- Manitoba Orienteering Association
- University of Manitoba
- Lockport Exchange Organization
- Manitoba Industrial Technology Centre
- Manitoba Rowing Association
- Rivers West
- Red River Corridors Inc.
- Sutherland Advisory Services
- Manitoba Hang Gliding Association
- Springhill Winter Park Action Committee
- Group'Action Saint-Norbert
- Manitoba Sled Dog Association
- Red River College
- Manitoba Métis Federation
- Manitoba Horse Council
- Snowmobilers of Manitoba
- TAG Creative Studios
- Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.
- DBC Management Resources
- Manitoba Chamber of Commerce
- Business Council of Manitoba
- Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
- Manitoba Building and Construction Trades Council
- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
- Winnipeg Heavy Construction Association
- Manitoba Federation of Labour
- Rural Municipalities of Taché, Springfield, East St. Paul, Ritchot, St. Clements Morris, West St. Paul, MacDonald, St. Andrews
- City of Winnipeg
- City of Selkirk
- Keystone Agriculture Producers

MFA would like to thank all the individual residents who contributed via the toll-free access line and through the ongoing public consultation process, as well as the many federal and provincial government officials who have and continue to provide important guidance on these issues.

APPENDIX

Release

March 18, 2004
For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING RECREATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) CEO, Ernie Gilroy today issued a general call for expressions of interest to stakeholders and interested Manitobans who have ideas for recreation and economic opportunities associated with the proposed Red River Floodway Expansion project. Today's announcement is a key element of the public consultation process announced by MFEA last week.

Mr. Gilroy said, "As one of the largest capital projects in Manitoba history, the expansion of the Red River Floodway will result in economic opportunities and thousands of jobs. This call for expressions of interest will help us identify some of those opportunities – particularly in the recreation, training and tourism sectors."

The call for expressions of interest will be communicated directly to key stakeholders and members of the general public through direct mail, local advertising and other outreach activities. Submissions can be forwarded to the MFEA offices before April 20, 2004. Detailed information is included in the attached backgrounder.

Working principles that will guide the process are;

- Compatibility with the primary purpose of flood expansion
- Minimal ongoing maintenance costs to taxpayers
- Stakeholder participation and community support
- Maximize benefit to rural and aboriginal communities
- Complement existing Red River facilities and initiatives
- Environmental stewardship

Mr. Gilroy added, "MFEA wants Manitobans to have their say and help shape the future of their communities. This process will compliment and assist the current independent environmental assessment and allow us to prepare a more concise blueprint for specific recreation and economic development activities associated with the new floodway."

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Over the last year, the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba have announced more than $240 million to begin work on the floodway expansion – more than one-third the total project costs. Canada has identified the project as a national priority.

Following 1997's "Flood of the Century", Canada and Manitoba invested $130 million in flood protection measures - $110 million for rural residents in the Red River Valley.

Mr. Gilroy concluded, "The full expansion of the Red River Floodway will dramatically improve the quality of life for Manitobans by helping make residents more secure, improving the environment, providing economic development opportunities and establishing a model for public consultation and community involvement."

Interested stakeholders are asked to call **1-866-356-6355** to obtain a copy of a detailed information package regarding the call for expressions of interest.

Additional information on the current independent environmental assessment process is available at **www.floodwayeia.com**.

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Backgrounder: *Call for Expression of Interest – Information Package*

Contact: Ernie Gilroy, CEO
Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority
(204) 945-4900 or 1-866-356-6355

Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority
Call for Expressions of Interest - Information Package

Recreation and Economic Development Opportunities
March 18, 2004 – April 20, 2004

What is the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority?

The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) has been established by the Province of Manitoba to oversee the planning and management of the Red River Floodway expansion. MFEA is committed to providing increased flood protection to as many Manitobans as possible. It will provide excellence in project management, be inclusive and encourage innovation.

MFEA has also been given the mandate to maximize economic opportunities associated with the expansion. As one of the largest capital infrastructure projects in Manitoba history, the project will result in both direct and indirect opportunities and thousands of jobs.

Who is eligible to submit an expression of interest?

Any individual, municipality, business or organization that has an idea regarding recreation and economic opportunities associated with the floodway expansion can submit an expression of interest.

How long do I have to submit an expression of interest and where do I send it?

The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is April 20, 2004. They must be submitted to:

"Expression of Interest"
c/o Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority
200-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3H8

All expressions of interest will be acknowledged and followed up by MFEA.

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Is there a form or application that needs to be filled out?

No. We are asking interested parties to submit a written submission of no more than 3 pages. The submission should include;

- a general description of the project that highlights the existing need or gap the project would address
- legal name, address and contact information of applicant
- list of communities impacted
- general funding arrangements and timelines
- demonstration of community support
- nature and extent of tangible and sustainable benefits
- notable social and environmental impacts
- additional municipal service requirements and municipal revenues generated by the project

What are some examples of the types of projects you are looking for?

Examples of the types of projects we are interested in include;

- hiking/jogging/biking trails
- winter recreation activities such as tobogganing, snowboarding and snowmobiling
- job training and youth employment partnerships
- downhill/nordic ski facilities
- research and innovation partnerships
- summer recreation activities such as horseback riding, hang gliding and dirt biking
- tourism promotion
- infrastructure that supports economic activity and recreational development
- cultural and historic initiatives
- environmental technology and sustainable development
- small business opportunities
- First Nations and Metis cultural & economic opportunities

What are examples of types of projects you are not looking for?

Examples of some of the types of projects we are not looking for include;

- Initiatives that compete for water with the Red River in low moisture years
- Projects that compromise engineering excellence of the project's primary objective – flood protection
- Projects that require incremental engineering costs

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What happens after the call for expression of interest is complete on April 20, 2004?

At the conclusion of the call for expressions of interest, MFEA will assess the expressions of interest that have been received – consistent with the principles identified. Expressions of interest found to meet the objectives of "the call" will be shared with the independent environmental analysis of the proposed floodway expansion project.

MFEA will compile an *Opportunity Report* which will serve as a blueprint for economic development and recreation opportunities associated with the floodway expansion. This *Opportunity Report* will identify the submissions received, be released to the public and facilitate the next stage of development for specific partnerships.

Is there money available to help me develop my idea and eventually fund it?

MFEA's priority is to direct its financial resources to measures that directly provide increased flood protection to Manitobans. At the same time, MFEA is facilitating the process of collecting ideas and proposals that can maximize the economic opportunities associated with its work and identify environmental impacts. If a proposal requires a grant or loan from federal and/or provincial agencies, MFEA will play a role in facilitating that process.

How can I get more information?

Call 1-866-356-6355.

How soon could my project get started?

It is premature to say. Timing and specific next steps will be addressed in the *Opportunity Report*.

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The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority Wants To Hear From You.

Expressions of interest invited on Recreation and Economic Opportunities associated with one of the Largest Infrastructure Projects in Manitoba's History.

The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) has been established to oversee the planning and management of the Red River Floodway Expansion. This project will create economic opportunities and thousands of jobs. We have been given the mandate to maximize opportunities associated with the project - particularly as it relates to recreation, innovation and tourism initiatives.

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

To get a copy of a detailed information package, share your ideas or find out more about the floodway expansion project, contact 1-866-356-6355.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by April 20, 2004

For information on the environmental assessment aspects of the project, contact www.floodwayela.com

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For more information, please contact:

Manitoba Floodway Authority

200-155 Carlton Street

Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

Phone

(204) 945-4900 or 1-866-356-6355

Fax

(204) 948-2462

Email

floodway@gov.mb.ca

Web

www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca